



## Real Men Giving Real Time

### Membership

Ronald O. Rogers,  
President

Cecil B. Allen  
Jesse J. Allen  
Ralph Amstad  
Mason P. Asha  
Ronald A. Beasley  
Lonnice C. Bell, Jr.  
Robert L. Billingslea  
Tony L. Bowman  
John L. Bryan, Sr.  
Lynwood A. Carter  
G. Christopher Clark  
Joseph R. Cleveland  
Alvin J. Cowans  
Billie L. Dean  
Ernest A. DeLoach  
Stuart W. Doyle  
John D. Ellis  
Leroy Farnore, Sr.  
Gregorio A. Francis  
Tony E. Greene  
Anthony J. Hall  
Larry G. Harndon  
Frederick S. Humphries, Sr.  
Tony Jenkins  
C.W. (Bill) Jennings  
Timothy L. Johnson  
Jeffrey B. Jones  
David O. Komegay  
Thomas S. Komegay  
Ernest Manning  
Reginald B. McGill  
Michael J. Meares  
Daniel (Don) Miller  
Joseph Morrell, Sr.  
Ron A. Oels  
Clarence Otis  
Belvin Perry, Jr.  
Donald J. Perry  
Brindley B. Pieters  
Charles B. Robinson  
Kran Riley  
Mark W. Shamley  
Wendell Sims  
C. William Smith  
Paul Sneed, Jr.  
Robert M. Spooner  
Philip G. St. Louis  
Stanley Stone  
Keith Tribble  
Jetta Wade  
James N. Wade  
Derrick D. Wallace  
Russell P. Warren  
Reginald K. Whitehead

January 6, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The mission of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. is to improve the quality of life within our communities and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. We are committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community. 100 Black Men of Orlando, Inc. seeks to serve as a beacon of leadership by utilizing our diverse talents to create environments where our children are motivated to achieve. In carrying out our mission, we have seen the benefits of broadband technology for emerging leaders.

Broadband technology affords its adopters incredible economic and civic benefits. With a broadband connection, we can search for jobs, acquire marketable skills, and even start our own businesses. Broadband links our members to distance learning programs and e-government resources, promoting educational advancement and civic engagement.

In light of our experiences, we feel compelled to offer our perspective on the Commission's Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). We are concerned about the implications that such regulations will have on the African American community, as well as all Americans who are currently underserved by broadband technology. From Florida's biggest cities like Orlando, to our most rural communities, ubiquitous broadband access is not yet a reality. Rather than imposing regulations that could limit who gets online, we urge the Commission to use this time to focus on getting all Americans connected.

The Pew Internet & American Life Project's most recent "Home Broadband Adoption" survey revealed that while nearly two-thirds of all adult Americans have a broadband connection at home, less than half of African Americans enjoy the same level of connectivity. In fact, broadband penetration among African Americans increased a mere three percentage points over the last year.

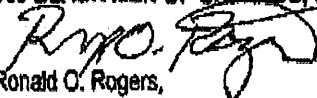
We urge the Commission to direct its efforts towards bridging the digital divide, rather than promoting policies that could potentially exacerbate it. We are concerned that the NPRM's net neutrality regulations could have an impact on the affordability and availability of broadband.



Before any actions are taken on the NPRM, it is imperative that the Commission consider the effect that such regulations will have on those who still lack a broadband connection. Without such information, we fear that those who stand to benefit the most from broadband will be further excluded from our digital society.

Sincerely,

100 BLACK MEN OF ORLANDO, INC.

  
Ronald C. Rogers,  
President